

August, 2, 1931

(1)

Aug. second went out after razor
fishes in ^{coarse} sand are south of shore
1600 yds north of Soggy Head
saw a number of nests of fish but
none together. One larger razor fish
would dig my forefingers and move
around end of measuring rod,
so I stirred up a little patch
for him & he milled it over,
while doing so I shot the picture
but I think he went out of it before
had. But then I was so mad
I could have cried — he came
right back, started to actively dig
then mouth full of sand right & left,
got a crust & dashed away
with it, the picture of a lifetime
which all I can do is tell about it.
looked around again but though
I saw several nice nests got no
pictures

Aug. 2nd afternoon, went out
above Drygashead Key about to look
for ~~Abudefduf~~ guarding eggs found
lot under head to which H. Single directed
me but did not seem to object to other
fishes hanging around & going under
head with them.

Passed over the heads to westward
& got S.W. of those ^{2nd} on flat but did not
see any Gnathypops I went after.
so went out against heads to seek
school of fish, ^{grey} snappers? & yellow grunts
Parrot fish, Angel & butterfly, blue tang
& no end of others. As I was setting
up tripod noticed grunts going for another
with mouths wide open, so waited
for it again. a long wait, but finally
did it again, but attached fish
half under rock so might have missed
half of interest in picture; however school
had dissipated & got only a couple of fish
in my 50 feet. This was last half morning
roll, so came in & reloaded.

Second day of afternoon went way up
to greater heads up reef; in looking for
school of fish, found a cave with large
few fish in it visible bet. cracks & crevices
between the large heads. Got my rig set
up but he moved back under rock & finally
went out of tunnel to back, was seen
feeding little black & blue striped fish over
him. Meanwhile a ~~Red Grouper~~ ^{Red Grouper}
hunking around. in fact 2-3 feet away.
After failing to get few fish looked around
for smaller fish, couldn't find him at
first (in head up area only look down with
difficulty) & then he was under my
tripod & about 6 inches from my knee
also ~~extended~~ under the tripod let me cope
within 1 inch of him with my finger. Thought
I would back off & take him & when he
saw this he followed me up & got in
under the tripod again six feet back
of its former place, so I tried man-
euvering him and with my measuring
sticks, let me push him back a little way
but when I tried it again and he roughed

to return to "Della" of the tripod, his
feelings must have gotten hurt, for
he went off among the horn pines
like gorgonians. So his interesting
chances went glimmering. In getting
up on feet I shoved a small coral
head out of the way & in doing so over-
turned it. Now with nothing to
shoot at, an angel fish luckily came
to the rescue, & began feeding over the
under side of the "coral rock". I let
go with the button & the reel began
to buzz. Then all of a sudden the
tripod slipped, ~~though~~ ^{as I caught it} I quickly caught
it & I do not know how much I got because
the fish started to move about, ~~that~~ ^{but} I
did try to follow him up with camera.
Porter will have with him much success.

Angel fish yellow inside of pectoral fins
has sort of suckerlike mouth

A movie of myself taking water under
pines would probably entertain you more
than these few snapshots I shall have to
show you.

Aug. 3 Monday Sea=Quiet as a mill
 Pond but sky heavily overcast; did
 not get a shot all forenoon as fish
 gaps in clouds + setting up trinkod
 did not coincide. Had somewhat
 early lunch and hauled out a trinkod
 to take advantage of a temporary clear
 spell. First shot a few fish I had
 noticed schooling around a few stunts
 alongmain on Lth of first heads out
 from dock, up as + behind heads for
 the south. Fired 8-11; 3 ^{consequent} foot shot at
 1:10 p.m. Then came in + reloaded +
 rushed up reef to "greater heads" in an
 attempt to catch few fish in hole in
 wall but found him not at home, but
 there were a number of yellow tails
 mottled + a blackish one with black
 lines ^{Haemulon macrodon} yellow squares; one of
 former started and of crevice + then
 backed up on seeing camera; the
 mottled ~~about~~ seeing as the suitable.

shot, saw a ^{large} Pigeon under wing, flying
too far to reach with line. so set my
camera down, tripod + all. The
wandered about + saw nothing but bunch
of chubs, swimming by looked like a likely
shot if the long line of them passed the
camera at suitable distance, measured
up a place (got tangled in diadems
mean while) + went back for camera.
+ who should be at suitable photo distance
but friend fear fish with his attached
little fellows on back + sides; but my
usual picture high the camera was
right angled to line of shot + as I
turned camera he gave a ponderous
glint of tail, + ducked ^{under} ^{my} ^{reflex} ^{head} ^{stays}
heads, ~~up~~ ^{up} a great distance but still
not directly communicating with hole
in wall. ~~seemingly~~ ^{disappointed}
naturally + picked up camera +
tripod + went back to get chubs.
Thought I would appreciate, when ne
(over h2)

works hard under water, you do not
seem to get enough air + just have
to gasp ^{+ heave} for it, + then not seem to get
enough was tempted to go up for breath
of need above water air; but thought
I'd stick it out till I got the chub
line, ~~got up to camp~~ ^{was getting} camera line
up when whom should I suddenly
behold face to face, it was too good
to miss my greater acquaintance
of yesterday. he was so close I
fear I only got a badly focussed
eye, so close + big did he appear.
That ended that hundred feet.
So came back to reload. Then started
and for Pempkins in hollow pond
in lot of several heads together filled
with eels + smaller heads, got a
shot at them + tried for ~~same~~ effect
as I did in ~~at 1.10~~ ^{at 1.10}, both times camera
jerked so picture is shaky. ^{was in photo}
but after this at about 4:40 ^{after both attempts} light failed utterly

Aug. 4, 1931

FM - GPT

(8)

This a.m. bet. 10 + 10.30 when sun was clear of clouds though I am sure it was dimmed in last half of picture. I photographed little natural amphitheater, we played with bottle day before in coral heads off dock, saw several fish schooling parrot fish passed in an out of picture + tang was feeding under alcyonarian, little black fish wavy fins + tail chased him off.

Should have been quite a show of fishes. Squinned fish or similar was under rock but passed out in rock crevice though I saw him. Camera failed to get him.

Clouds were very troublesome all day except when I didn't have boat 11 am to 2.30 p.m. Finer seen out of gassing to Port, then handy, then when came in. + didn't get right combination together, of light + fish. Sued fish in heel, bounced, will try tomorrow

noticed confusion of ground broke up when I had intervened between them. Tended them to room about in files or lines. When sun got brighter began to school again; also these fellows while I sat & watched hoping to get a few more or different fish in group got tired of being watched & began to move away onto other side of alcyonarian chunk, didn't like to be watched (but never felt enough to show you all this). Shall try to take this tomorrow.

~~have~~ seem to find me much braver, something new to their experience & as far as their experience goes, something that never harmed them in spite of bulky hood & long hose and constantly mounting stream of bubbles.

After you just enter
all you can do is hope
& pray that nothing will
slay you right (in field
of camera)

Aug. 5, 1931 Clear day occasional ⁽⁹⁾
rough some haze

Started to fix camera so as
to be able to start & stop pictures.
Took several hours & at 10 when finished
tried out camera & it leaked just
as some new packing rubber & it worked
fine for me well but cracked & leaked
a little about eighth of an inch in
bottom. So had to come back for
other rubber. There was none which
I thought of a possible hot water bag,
& Capt. Mills the versatile had
a duck bag of several years standing
on ship. Worked like a charm.

Finally got my fish in the tree
that I had tried so hard to
get for some days, but before
found & hid him out of
tree I was unsuccessful. Got
it beautifully today at 11 a.m. nearly
2, camera set six feet ^{15.30} ~~2.00~~ p.m.

While taking a couple of "angels" kept ⁽¹⁰⁾
buzzing around my head, so I
could not resist the temptation to
shoot them, but could not orient
camera properly & quickly enough to
get picture lined up straight.
I think I got something of them if
they didn't get too close. Fish
are certainly ^{naively} inquisitive ~~clear~~ ^{operations} if you
yourself ~~are~~ ^{act} not too forward with their
trusting natures. Of course in all
these pictures the camera would have
to jerry due to the antiquated tripod
with which I had to contend, until Capt
Mills fixed that too.

After this I
set things for four feet to get a few
smaller fish on side of coral head &
also tiled worms, but ~~because~~ ^{just little farther} a fair
distance was too great, at that ^{around 200} ^{11 p.m.} ^{f. 1/4}
Couple of angle fish under rock, school
too & grouper came to look see; may
also have gotten a small pomacentrid ^{over for} ⁽¹¹⁾

picture; Then moved over to
side of very large head & got
couple of tiny black & bright
blue striped fish; clinging to it at times
feeding there perhaps & before it. / DV
has when the shot (50 feet) was ex-
hausted) that I noticed leak when
we jumped up to get our camera.
Because that meant rushing in & getting
down the bag & it tested out fine &
seems to work. O.K. So I relinked.
Camera & we started up to greater
heads up reef to see if we could
get good alcyonarian growth, ~~was~~
not so tall exact sea fans. & as
up to be expected, missed a wonderful
shot of ^{reef} paprot fishes like of them
standing on heads in their way of
looking about, almost sense, for their
~~curiously~~ satisfied they moved off
~~after I got below, & tried~~ as
I tried to get my tripod & camera
in position. Got a small pigie & it

my film was not to near done I
must have gotten a few frames of
a hassan grouper. It was getting
~~to~~ ^{to} five p.m. when we got off
of island near dock; ^{shot 20 or 15 min}
^{bet 4.00 to 4.15}
up. ^{4.15} ~~fishes~~ must have been near
think I had clear by most of time
though sun was in a light haze when
I did get up. (F. 8 1/2 ~~all~~ camera 6 feet.)

August 5, 1931

Very muggy all morning
in fact didn't get out till after 2 p.m.
when Mr. Smiley took me and I found
me a Gnathypops, saw in for
the boat above water as clear.
After setting up camera had to
wait it seemed half an hour for
fish to get reassembled ^{change} ~~that~~ ^{sped}
creature just five feet from him but
did not follow him.

(13)

After rearing himself he
did come up & look about a couple
of times, then came out to chase
a fish that got closer than he
~~thought~~ seemed to think desirable
(did not mind smaller fish that
fed about his hole, first part of this
trip). Then he came up & out
several times to blow out a puff of
sand that he'd cleared out of his
burrow. With stopping & starting did
get a full circuit ^{for} length of time
in burrow. Was close to him when
I quit. F 8 1/2 11, hazy misty clouds
over about sun, 4:15 p.m.

August. 7th 1931 Surge chods
 cumulus; waited for gaps or
 spaces between them.
 went back this a.m. to take
 Gnathypops & found him feeding
 & I couldn't get him ^{completely} ~~near his~~
 hole short of nearly stepping
 on him; waving arms & legs &
 even measuring rod unless almost
 poked in ^{his} face. & when he did
 go down he stayed a long time.
 Took about 30 feet of film in
 snaps. at F a shade, thickness of
 line ^{away from} 11 line! / Seems to
 feed ^(Camera 4 feet) in green room or clean house
 in afternoon, at least largely
 so as per pictures. I took
 sun my hooker under the edge of cholla first
 huge at end

After this we moved over to
 Xyris lights (razor fish ground) &

saw a number of nests & also loose large fish, followed one of the latter to try to run him home, but he showed more of a disposition to want to examine sand stirred up by my foot steps than to keep out of my way. I actually had to poke him with my measuring rod, to keep him ~~and~~ the move (and not loitering) Japped him a least half dozen times, each time I could catch up on him, could feel the thump a hand if you will each time it connected. ~~that~~ ^{was} he kept ~~as~~ the move but kept a more or less ahead of me, till I had to quit for lack of ~~sufficient~~ ^{force} reached the end of my rope as to speak. Then came back to the

(16)

boat, on the way found a number
of good sized nests, but no fish
about & like the proverbial
furniture dove right under the
ladder (from the boat) I found two
nests about six feet apart which
a medium to small sized fish (a) was
tending to stay one by.
(Didn't have time to find a large
nest & fish together clouds & light
too uncertain.)

Just as I was setting up camera
one of these on which I trained my
camera moved a piece of coral & I
got him to do it again by disturbing
the base of his "stone ledge" tumbled
a piece or two in the middle & he moved
them up. Suffered from two handicaps
lack of as much film & as wanted &
lack of time to hand the scenes I'd
liked to have shot.

Aug. 7 1931. In afternoon.
Went hunting staghorn coral, but
first took last 30 feet on main
filament at a dog-fish + parrot
together, feeding on a small
rock. N.G.F thickness of line away for 11 turns.
Sun under regular thin misty clouds
2.30 p.m.
2.40 p.m. feet inches of stone climbing aboard
and set for 12 feet, F. 16

at 4.10 after looking around in
deep water and from dock 18 feet deep.
And seeing nothing suitable, went
over to that to large patch on S. side
of channel toward Bird Key Reef.

Shadows cast by sun
but there was a
thin veil of cloud over it in all directions
Got some fish under staghorn coral
water very muddy Camera 6 feet
F 1/2 way to 4.10 p.m. about.

30 feet

sign of red in the water clouds + tried to
pick better light for sea all day + tried to
take better light for sea all day + tried to

Aug. 8, 1931 I did not get out
all forenoon with one thing or another
yesterday's dredgings + taking
pictures of "fleet" John got
too far in! + had to wait for Bill
Burr and Billy got them in separate
shots + then took panorama of all the
buildings with Capt. Mills by monument
~~Got it~~

30 feet? got super shots at 30 ft. + few fish
at bottom growth + few fish
fish wasted

In afternoon Phil + I went scouting
around to find Abudofdu with eggs
found only one? at greater heads up
deep but neither fish nor eggs were
very get-at-able. Came down to
growth of heads to westward of single
large head 400 yds off Point. Saw
none but tried to take a "flock" of
young runners, but they ran too
close to the camera. This was after
a - of a long wait (hard on Phil) finally
got something in front of focus because

For me. Then I fussed camera
 up & after that turned to pick
 up tripod & measuring stick to put
 them up for Phil to grab. As I turned
 I saw a 3 ft. humacunda who had
 been watching me the whole time I
 supposed. Naturally I just about
 catapulted up the ladder & yelled
 for Phil to lower the camera right
 away. I had my going up & down to
 the fellows squinted & he started
 to make off. I rested the camera
 on my stomach & let her go
 any way. The picture will be an
 awful wobbly of any picture at
 all. (The guy had wanted to catch
 him. While at "great head"
 saw plenty of purple yellow bell
 flies & my first trunk fish. A second
 place saw several squirrel fish?
 Tried deep water to westward, but saw
 none but a hole black bottom, but no new fish.

Aug. 9, 1931.

Sight intermittent hours
+ clear, pleasant pretty
dull at times the sunnier times

This a.m. went up to heads
where we ^{saw} got Adredefduf hanging
around egg smear + I got a lot of
short snouts of some of his rushes
at little fish of one sort or another,
but mostly his return after rushes.

As we camped, I anticipated
there + when he will with next + after
each rush he returns to cavity in
coral containing egg smear to rea-
sure himself that it's alright. In
very belabored course to say the
least. Hung around for 10-1000 hrs.

(one line thick) away for F11 toward E.
When I went down ^{to measure} ~~several~~ couple of bananas
they followed me back to boat they were
there when I got the tripod extended
+ camera set in ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~position~~ but it

has not such an all fixed long-legged
affair I couldn't get it fixed I ^{tried}
got 11.30 off the beach to get 2 snappers
while toward the shore over a crack in the coral
at 11.30 off the beach to get 2 snappers

30 feet film

to take I tried

of the positive real have
150 feet of each of the
nest building fish + the
burrowing on that is much
better, and shows in addition
my pushing down the side of the
nest in the first case and
sprinkling sand in the whole
of the other. This is new
negative taken during my second
year and better than what is
in the old positive, ^{which is repeated.} my first year
work and under water movies.

something over two hundred feet
additional of other fish and back-
grounds. Of the humming fish
150, and the next building fish
150 more ~~over~~ of better film and
~~besides~~ than that in the positive
and several

They ^{must be all} I have 200 feet of
stuff as good as what you
have of other species of fish
all had new & not printed